

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 IOE-00 ISO-00 CU-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9556

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: OPENING SESSION OF MEETING RE DRAFT

DECLARATION ON DEMOCRATIC ACCESS TO CULTURE:

"ZIONISM-RACISM" AVOIDED

1. SUBJECT MEETING OPENED AT UNESCO APRIL 5, 1976.

2. YUGOSLAVIA PROPOSED, IRAN SECONDED NOMINATION OF MARIA DE LOURDES PINTASILGO (PORTUGAL) AS CHAIRPERSON. VICE CHAIRMEN ARE: LYUBOMIR DRAMALIEV (BULGARIA), SAAD ELDIN WAHBA (EGYPT), ALIT WIBRATA (INDONESIA), MARIO C. FERNANDEZ (URUGUAY). TANZANIAN REP COMPLAINED ABOUT LACK OF BLACK AFRICAN REPRESENTATION, WHICH LED TO DOUDOU DIENE (SENEGAL) BEING NAMED RAPPOREUR. FINALLY, POMPILIU MACOVEI (ROMANIA) APPOINTED CHAIRMAN DRAFTING COMMITTEE. PORTUGUESE CHAIRPERSON PROVED PARTICULARLY EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE DURING FIRST DAY.

3. AFTERNOON SESSION CENTERED ON GENERAL DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATION. WEO'S (ITALY, CANADA, UK AND NETHERLANDS) MADE PARTICULARLY STRONG INTERVENTIONS

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EXPRESSING DOUBTS AS TO WISDOM AND, INDEED, DESIRABILITY

OF ATTEMPTING TO "LEGISLATE" DEMOCRATIC ACCESS TO CULTURE. SWEDES SIMILARLY INTERVENED TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING FREE CHOICE AND FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. MOST NOTABLY, SWEDES INTRODUCED LENGTHY AMENDMENTS FOR REVISION OF DRAFT TEXT PREPARED BY UNESCO SECRETARIAT.

4. GDR AND BYELORUSSIA PREDICTABLY EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR DRAFT RECOMMENDATION IN GENERAL. BYELORUSSIA ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO PROPOSE REVISIONS TO BRING DRAFT TO HAVE BROADER REFERENCE TO THE UN CHARTER AND THE UNESCO CONSTITUTION.

5. AS OF CLOSE OF FIRST DAY SESSION, SOVIETS APPEARED TO BE RESPECTING PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW PREAMBULAR PARA AMENDMENT CONDEMNING, INTER ALIA, "RACISM, ZIONISM." HOWEVER, SOVIETS PREDICTABLY TRUMPETED ALLEGED SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS IN "RAISING CULTURAL CONSCIOUSNESS" SINCE SOVIET REVOLUTION. PROGRESS NOTED ALSO AS ARISING FROM HELSINKI. SOVIETS EXPLICITLY PROPOSED THAT DECLARATION PREAMBLE MAKE REFERENCE TO HELSINKI FINAL ACT, "OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS" AND "EVILS" OF "ECONOMIC" AND "RACIAL DISCRIMINATION."

6. LEBANON, FIRST OF ARAB DELS TO SPEAK, URGED NECESSITY FOR DRAFT TO REFLECT "FREEDOM" AND "DIGNITY" AS CONTRASTED WITH "RACISM" AND "FOREIGN OCCUPATION" WHICH "RECENT UN DECISIONS" HAD CONDEMNED, BUT DID NOT RPT NOT MAKE EITHER EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO "ZIONISM-RACISM" EQUATION OR PROPOSE SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS.
RUSH

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